

## **Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (Crawberry Hill)**

**08 January 2013**

### **Bishop Burton Village Hall**

#### **Notes of Meeting**

**Attendees:** David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S  
David Oxtoby (Chair, Bishop Burton Parish Council) - DO  
David Drew (Councillor, Walkington Parish Council) - DD  
John Castle (Walkington Resident) - JC  
Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH  
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) - JC  
Peter Rolinson (Walkington Resident) - PR  
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS  
Louis Montagu-Smith (Geologist, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - LM-S  
Philip Silk (Planning Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - PS  
Mat Martin (Construction Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - MM  
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) – JF  
Tony Fildes (HSE Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - TF  
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) – ST

**Apologies:** Cllr Phyllis Pollard (ERYC Ward Councillor and Chair of Planning, ERYC)

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained that Mr Dunning had requested to attend the liaison meetings as an observer. DM-S then went on to explain that Councillor Phyllis Pollard had been invited to the meeting but unfortunately she could not attend this evening and that she had passed on her apologies.

DM-S informed the liaison group that East Riding of Yorkshire Council's planning committee considered the company's application for a second exploration wellsite at West Newton - close to the parishes of Aldbrough, Burton Constable, East Garton and Witherwick in the Holderness area – on 03 January 2013. He explained that the application had been approved subject to a five day 'cooling off' period associated with internal policy surrounding the Committee Agenda notice period. Post meeting note: the application has now been fully approved.

**2. Notes from the Previous Meeting (20 November 2012):**

The notes from the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of what was discussed and agreed at the last meeting.

**3. Ground Water Monitoring Update**

PS updated members on the first round of groundwater sampling which was collected on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012. A spread sheet had been produced providing a record of the results along with a comparison against relevant screening criteria. This was circulated amongst resident representatives.

The results identified high turbidity in the Walkington Wolds borehole, along with higher levels of Chloride, Nitrate and Sulphate. It was explained that this may be due to pulses of recharge water through the unsaturated zone. PS said that the chloride in particular may represent the effects of salt spreading on the adjacent B1230.

PR highlighted that the results in the Walkington Wolds borehole appeared much higher than the others. PS agreed with this and explained that a second round of baseline sampling was due to be collected which would help to identify any irregularities between samples. More information about this would be made available at the next community liaison meeting.

**4. Construction Update**

MM gave a comprehensive update on site activity since the last liaison meeting. Using a pictorial timeline, he gave an intricate review of work that had been undertaken. This showed that the site work is virtually complete.

He said that his team would be at the site the very next day to complete the tidying work. Resident representatives commented about how well they thought this phase of the project had gone and how tidy they thought the site looked already.

MM said that a new small security hut will be brought to site for the weekend. Then, from the following week, site security staff will be in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the drilling phase.

He said that fencing work would be completed along with the required white lining on Friday this week.

MM said that safety and security at the site remained a priority and that there had been no issues security issues at all since the last meeting.

He said that there had been no health, safety or environmental issues since the last meeting.

He said that he would be handing over the well site for the next phase of development on Friday. He explained that the road dilapidation survey will take place and ERYC Highways will be in attendance throughout this procedure. He said that Rathlin's transport consultants, Beverley-based Local Transport Projects, would be accompanying the council so that they can deal with any actions and recommendations, quickly and efficiently.

MM said that traffic movements seemed to have gone very well – despite the slight delay caused by the weather. Resident representatives noted that lorries had been using nearby laybys and commented that the drivers had been very respectful and polite. MM thanked them for that feedback and reconfirmed Rathlin's commitment to being a good neighbour on this project. He said that the project team had worked very hard to make sure that lorries did not go through the villages.

Resident representatives said that so far things had gone very well and that the vast majority of people wouldn't even know that anything was taking place there.

JF said that bringing in the stone is the biggest part of what has been done so far and that this work is now complete.

MM explained that he was in the process of producing a handover pack and he took the liaison group through a contents list so that everyone is aware of what the contents will be.

Baseline surveys will be included in the pack, for example chemical analysis of the soil and geophysical works (very important part of the pack).

JC said that he had heard from one of his neighbours that their water smelled 'funny'. MM and PS said that this could not be anything to do with site activity as drilling had not started yet – and even when it does it is highly unlikely that there will be any problems of this nature. JC said that his water was fine. Apparently they had been in touch with Yorkshire Water and some water filters were being dispatched. The liaison group concluded that this could not be anything to do with Rathlin's site activity.

MM then took the liaison group through a very interesting pictorial representation of the site safety process and showing how water will be captured in the ditches and transferred into water tanks for re-use/removal if necessary. He said that if the weather continued at the same rate as at the time of the liaison meeting there would probably be enough water to deal with site operations going forward.

## 5. Conductor Setting Operation

JF explained that the objectives of this operation are to:

- complete the operation safely and with minimal environmental impact
- prevent damage to the aquifer
- drill a vertical hole to a depth of +/- 203m
- install 28" casing and 20" casing to the respective depths
- cement the casing and provide a competent casing shoe below the base of the Upper Cretaceous Chalk - isolating the aquifer in advance of drilling the next hole section (17 1/2" hole)

He then talked resident representatives through the near surface geology so that everyone could visualise the effects of the next phase of the operations.

JF then took resident representatives through a step-by-step guide of how the well would be constructed before showing the kinds of drilling rigs that people could expect to see and then explaining how reverse drilling works in practice.

He explained:

- that there are likely to be 10 Vehicle Loads + Rathlin/Moorhouse office accommodation
- there would be 12 hour day operations with contingency for 24 hours if required
- that the sound power level is 105 dB(A)<sub>L<sub>w</sub></sub>.

This is equivalent to the average sound power level used in Noise Impact Assessment

## 6. AOB

DM-S explained what would be involved with the second well planning application (West Newton) in more detail. He said that Rathlin is committed to delivering that project to the same standard as at Crawberry Hill – learning lessons from the company's work with Bishop Burton and Walkington communities. He introduced LM-S and said that he would be working in the area more over the coming weeks and months.

Resident representatives asked if more wells would be explored. TS said that the two well sites currently being explored would be the main focus of activity in 2013.

He said that Rathlin intends to be as open as possible but at the same time company representatives needed to be mindful of the commercial sensitivity of its activities. DM-S said that it had been suggested that the 14<sup>th</sup> onshore round will be opened this year but at the moment not sure when this is likely to be. He said that Rathlin's current licence was secured under the 13<sup>th</sup> round in 2008.

**7. Date and time of the next meeting:**

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 12 February 2013 at Bishop Burton Village Hall.

DO is kindly asked to check and confirm the Hall's availability.

Further updates will be available via Rathlin's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk)